

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06234 191647Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OC-06 CCO-00 /025 W
-----044460 210934Z /23

R 191134Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8505
USDOC WASHDC
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS LAGOS 6234

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, BGEN, BBAK, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRADE MISSION
TO U.S.

1. BECAUSE OF SEVERE PROBLEMS WITH COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, INOPERATIVE TELEX, AND ELECTRICAL POWER FAILURES, SWISSAIR AND FAN AM STATE THEY ARE UNABLE TO SECURE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR TRADE MISSION BEFORE JUNE 2. WE THUS REQUEST STATE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING FOLLOWING HOTELS TO CONFIRM RESERVATIONS FOR 24 SINGLES AND 3 DOUBLES:

- 1) BARBIZON PLAZA HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY
- 2) CONRAD HILTON, CHICAGO
- 3) BONAVENTURE, LOS ANGELES
- 4) SHAMROCK, HOUSTON
- 5) ATLANTA HILTON, ATLANTA
- 6) SHERATON PARK, WASHINGTON, D.C.

2. SAME COMMUNICATIONS DIFFICULTIES HAVE ALSO PREVENTED AIRLINES FROM COMPLETING INTERCITY PLANE RESERVATIONS. HOWEVER, THEY HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS SHORTLY AND WE WILL NOTIFY DEPARTMENT WHEN DATA AVAILABLE.

3. TRADE MISSION WILL BE ARRIVING AT JFK, NEW YORK, AT 1340 HOURS JUNE 11 ABOARD PA 101.
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4. REGARDING APPOINTMENTS, U.S. PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED THAT MEETINGS CITED IN OUR PREVIOUS CABLES WILL TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, FINAL TIMES AND CONFIRMATION MUST BE MADE BY LOCAL COORDINATING GROUPS SUCH AS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN HOST CITIES. NO APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN NAILED DOWN FROM LAGOS.

5. EMBASSY RECORDS DISCLOSE THAT 1973 TRADE MISSION OF 21 MEMBERS HAD TWO ESCORTS (THEODORE HANSEN AND WILLIAM RAIFORD) FURNISHED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT. WE BELIEVE EXPENSES WERE PAID BY STATE; THEY WERE NOT PAID BY THE CHAMBER. BY SEPTTEL IC-LAGOS WILL ASK USICA/ECA IF FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE INCLUDING ESCORTS IN POSSIBLE. ICA LAGOS WILL ALSO PROPOSE MEDIA COVERAGE FOR USE IN NIGERIA.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS06234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780213-1199
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780541/aaaabhzu.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b4458c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2640051
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRADE MISSION TO U.S.
TAGS: BEXP, BGEN, BBAK, NI
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b4458c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014